

**In the Specification:**

*On page 1, prior to line 5, please insert the following heading and paragraph:*

**--Cross Reference to Related Applications**

This application is for entry into the U.S. national phase under §371 for International Application No. PCT/FI2004/000049 having an international filing date of January 30, 2004, and from which priority is claimed under all applicable sections of Title 35 of the United States Code including, but not limited to, Sections 120, 363 and 365(c).--

*On page 1, prior to line 5, please insert the following heading:*

**--Technical Field--**

*On page 1, prior to line 10, please insert the following heading:*

**--Background of the Invention--**

*On page 3, prior to line 1, please insert the following heading:*

**--Summary of the Invention--**

*On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 as follows:*

-- The method according to the invention is characterised in that it comprises the steps of:  
- determining a maximum length of a silent period that is longer than a predetermined regular interval between upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions transmitted by a service that involves transmitting upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions, and  
- at a certain layer of a protocol stack governing communication over a telecommunication connection, observing the occurrence of silent periods and transmitting a dummy block over the telecommunication connection if the length of an observed silent period reaches said maximum length without an upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmission or payload data having been transmitted.--

*On page 4, prior to line 24, please insert the following heading:*

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

*On page 10, please add the following paragraph after the paragraph ending on line 29:*

--While there have been shown and described and pointed out fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the devices and methods described may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. For example, it is expressly intended that all combinations of those elements and/or method steps which perform substantially the same function in substantially the same way to achieve the same results are within the scope of the invention. Moreover, it should be recognized that structures and/or elements and/or method steps shown and/or described in connection with any disclosed form or embodiment of the invention may be incorporated in any other disclosed or described or suggested form or embodiment as a general matter of design choice. It is the intention, therefore, to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the claims appended hereto. Furthermore, in the claims means-plus-function clauses are intended to cover the structures described herein as performing the recited function and not only structural equivalents, but also equivalent structures. Thus although a nail and a screw may not be structural equivalents in that a nail employs a cylindrical surface to secure wooden parts together, whereas a screw employs a helical surface, in the environment of fastening wooden parts, a nail and a screw may be equivalent structures.--